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LETTER DATED 21 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Karen Baburian, Chairman of the Parliament of Nagorny Karabakh, regarding Security Council resolution 874 (1993).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Letter dated 18 October 1993 from the Chairman of the Parliament of Nagorny Karabakh addressed to the Secretary-General

The Nagorny Karabakh Republic notes with satisfaction that the United Nations continues to focus its attention on the problem of a Karabakh settlement, as can be seen from Security Council resolution 874 (1993) and the serious concern stated therein that a continuation of the conflict would endanger peace and security in the region.

We welcome those shifts in the position of the United Nations which indicate a deeper understanding by the world community of the aspirations of the Karabakh people and its natural desire to obtain concrete guarantees of its security.

We also welcome the fact that the United Nations has supported direct contacts between representatives of the Azerbaijani and Nagorny Karabakh Republics, with the assistance of the Russian Federation, and has come out in favour of cooperation with the CSCE with a view to securing a Karabakh settlement.

The Nagorny Karabakh Republic hopes that the United Nations will use its influence to persuade the Azerbaijani leadership to abandon the unconstructive position which it took at the latest negotiations in the Minsk Group in Moscow and Paris, and to take a realistic approach and not jeopardize the progress made.

However, we note with regret that the resolution contains a reference to the 24 March 1992 mandate of the CSCE Council of Ministers which may undermine the agreement already reached, in particular on the question of the parties to the conflict. We also find the term "the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic" used in the resolution to be quite unacceptable and we regard this as an attempt to prejudge the issue of the status of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic, a matter which, as you know, is for the Minsk Conference to decide.

If the Security Council really intends to replace with this resolution the main item of the Minsk Conference, then this may cause us to reconsider our participation in it.

(Signed) K. BABURIAN